

H.E. Nelson Mandela
Burundi-conflict Mediator.

June 22nd, 2003

Re.: **Malicious manoeuvres to undermine peace and stability in Burundi.**

Your Excellency,

When in 1993 political rally Burundi people were singing '*Ewe Ndadaye, uratubera Mandela*' (Ndadaye, become our Mandela), no one could foresee at those exciting moments that the democratically elected president, Melchior Ndadaye, would be assassinated only three months after beginning his term of office; and no one could envisage that Nelson Mandela, the symbol of freedom for oppressed people, would become the mediator in Burundi conflict.

Your Excellency,

Burundi people are grateful for all you have done so far in an attempt to put an end to the circle of violence in that tiny central African country. However, if we say that the main issue to be dealt with has been addressed this would be a wrong and reprehensible assessment of the situation.

The Burundian community residing in England is hereby expressing its concern over some political manoeuvres to sabotage peace and stability in Burundi.

1. ***Has there been any power sharing in Burundi?***

The answer is NO. There has been prestigious positions sharing within the Burundian political hierarchy but THE POWER remained where it belongs since decades: Burundi Army.

The permanent solution for the Burundian crisis is neither the constitutional reforms nor any other political arrangements. The key lies in the reform of the security forces in Burundi.

It is extremely hard for us and for whoever to make you and the international community comprehend what the *National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy, CNDD-FDD* and the *Palipehutu-FNL* are fighting for, whereas in the implementation of the Arusha peace agreement the Republic of Burundi has a Head of State and a Speaker of the Parliament from the ethnic and political majority.

Your Excellency,

President Domitien NDAYIZEYE is nothing more than Abel MUZOLEWA of the former Rhodesia under Ian Smith rule.

If we don't have your firm assistance, this Burundian political situation may jeopardize or even nullify 10 years' efforts of Burundi people to resist from the evil represented by the Burundian ethnic army.

Since 1993, more than 300,000 people have been massacred, 1 million peasants have been massively arrested and gathered in concentration camps, and 6,000 of innocent people are suffering in Burundian deadly prisons.

Despite the fact that some exiled Hutu leaders have gone home and are on top of some institutions, they are not able to free prisoners, to dismantle the concentration camps and to put the country back to democratic rails. They have no power whatever.

The appalling humanitarian situation in Burundi is to continue, even to worsen because the Tutsi army doesn't want the implementation of the ceasefire agreement.

Nowadays, the Burundian Muzolewa has been instructed by his boss (the army commanders) to secure sanctions against the CNDD-FDD and Palipehutu-FNL, and the visit of Burundi officials to Brussels, scheduled July 3rd, 2003 is in line with these sanctions against the rebel groups that are fighting the Burundi people oppressors.

2. *Has vice-President Jacob ZUMA properly played his role?*

Not at all President Zuma has been as biased as partial.

There is no doubt that at the beginning Jacob Zuma had a good faith, but when he faced the toughness of the some hardliners of Burundi army, he surrendered: his concern became the signature of the ceasefire agreement at all cost, rather than peace and stability in Burundi.

On December 3rd, 2002, Zuma managed to secure a ceasefire agreement between the Burundi Transitional Government represented by Major Pierre Buyoya and the CNDD-FDD represented by Pierre Nkurunziza.

This gave rise to a hope for peace which was betrayed by Jacob Zuma soon after the signatures.

It was clearly stated that within 30 days, there would be discussions aimed at setting up a joint commission for the ceasefire, agreeing on an African peacekeeping force (mandate, size, countries of origin), stationing, disarmament, disengagement, and many more issues on technical level, and some political adjustments as the CNDD-FDD is not signatory of the August 2000 Arusha peace agreement.

In the back of the CNDD-FDD leaders and the Tanzanian and Gabonese representatives in the mediation team, Jacob Zuma and Major Buyoya went to Addis-Abbeba to negotiate an African force to be sent to Burundi.

In April 2003, the South-African-led African force headed by General Siphoswe Binda arrived in Bujumbura. And Colonel Samba was appointed as the president of a non existing joint commission for the ceasefire.

Surprising, in the declarations made on BBC radio by these Zuma's appointees soon after their arrival in Burundi, they behaved like seniors officers of a coalition force with Burundi army, not as peacekeeping force officers.

Jacob Zuma and Major Buyoya managed to create leaders of fictitious armed factions that signed the so-called ceasefire agreement of October 7th, 2002.

The purpose was nothing more than using them to undermine the credibility of the CNDD-FDD and Palipehutu –FNL leaders by portraying them as troublemakers.

All these malicious manoeuvres were jointly orchestrated by the vice-President Jacob Zuma and Major Pierre Buyoya.

Despite the ceasefire agreement people continue to die, and new concentration camps continue to be created. We believe that, to some extent, Jacob Zuma bears responsibility.

Your Excellency,

The reform of Burundian security forces means peace in Burundi. We could reverse the statement and say "peace in Burundi means the reform of Burundian security forces".

Therefore, the Burundian Community residing in England asks your Excellency to stand beside Burundi people by pressing for the unconditional and strict implementation of the December 3rd, 2002 ceasefire agreement between the Burundi Transitional Government and the CNDD-FDD.

For the Burundian Community in England,

(See attached list)

CC to:

1. H E Yoweri Kagame, President of the Republic of Uganda, and President of the Regional Initiative for Peace in Burundi.
2. H.E. Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa,
3. H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa, President of the United Republic of Tanzania,
4. H.E. Omar Bongo, President of the Republic of Gabon,

- 5.H.E. Joseph Kabila, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo,
- 6.H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda,
- 7.H.E. Domitien Ndayizeye, President of the Republic of Burundi,
- 8.H.E. Jacob Zuma, Vice-President of the Republic of South Africa,
- 9.H.E. Jimmy Carter, Former President of the United States of America, and the Chairman of the Carter Center,
- 10.H.E. Aldo Ayello, European Union Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region of Africa,
- 11.H.E. Marc De La Sablière, Ambassador of France to the United Nations.

On the behalf of the Burundian Community in UK.

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